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October 6, 2015

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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Los Angeles, California 90012

#15 of October 6, 2015


PATRICK OGAWA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Agenda No. 4
03/24/15

**Re: Resolution Approving Project Number 02-305
County General Plan Update
All Supervisorial Districts/Three-Vote Matter**

Dear Supervisors:

Your Board previously conducted a duly-noticed public hearing regarding the above-referenced project, which, among, other things, repeals the 1980 Countywide General Plan and adopts the updated County General Plan for the unincorporated areas of the County ("General Plan Update"). At the conclusion of the hearing, your Board indicated its intent to approve the General Plan Update and instructed our office to prepare the appropriate documents for final approval.

Enclosed is a resolution for your consideration to adopt the General Plan Update. Ordinances to adopt zoning code amendments and zone changes which implement, and are necessary to be consistent with, the General Plan Update are submitted separately and concurrently with this resolution.

Very truly yours,

MARY C. WICKHAM
Interim County Counsel

By 
ELAINE M. LEMKE
Principal Deputy County Counsel

APPROVED AND RELEASED:


THOMAS J. FAUGHNAN
Senior Assistant County Counsel

EML:gl

Enclosure

c: Sachi A. Hamai, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Patrick Ogawa, Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF
PROJECT NUMBER 02-305
GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**

WHEREAS, Article 6 of Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the California Government Code (commencing with section 65350) provides for the adoption and amendment of a jurisdiction's general plan; and

WHEREAS, the County of Los Angeles ("County") adopted a Countywide General Plan in November 1980 ("1980 General Plan"), which 1980 General Plan has been periodically updated and amended since that time; and

WHEREAS, Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the California Government Code (commencing with section 65800) and Part 2 of Chapter 22.16 of Title 22 of the County Code authorize the County to adopt zone changes; and

WHEREAS, Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the California Government Code (commencing with section 65800), authorizes the County to adopt amendments to Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code ("Zoning Code"); and

WHEREAS, the County Regional Planning Commission ("Commission") held a duly-noticed public hearing in 2014 on February 26, March 26, April 23, May 28, June 25, July 23, August 6, October 9, and December 10, on the matter of Project No. 02-305 ("General Plan Update" or the "Project"), consisting of an overall update to and replacement of the 1980 General Plan. Specifically, the General Plan Update includes, among other things: (a) a climate action plan; (b) goals and policies regarding significant environmental areas ("SEAs"); (c) the expansion of SEA boundaries outside of the Antelope Valley; and (d) zoning consistency measures, including amendments to the Zoning Code ("Zoning Update") and the rezoning of certain properties ("Zone Changes"), to make the Zoning Code consistent with, and implement, the General Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, the General Plan Update provides guiding principles and establishes the framework for existing and future planning efforts in the unincorporated areas of the County. Specifically, the General Plan Update includes goals, policies, implementation programs, figures, and maps (including non-substantive digitization and parcelization of land use policy maps for some existing community-based plans), for the following elements:

- a. Land Use Element: This element provides strategies and planning tools to facilitate and guide future development and revitalization efforts;
- b. Mobility Element: This element provides an overview of the transportation infrastructure and strategies for developing an efficient and multimodal

transportation network, assesses challenges and constraints of the County transportation system, and offers policy guidance to reach the County's long-term mobility goals;

- c. Air Quality Element: This element summarizes air quality issues and outlines the goals and policies in the General Plan Update that will guide air quality improvement and greenhouse gas emissions reduction, including a sub-element, the County Community Climate Action Plan, a copy of which is attached hereto, to establish strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are generated within the County's unincorporated communities in a manner consistent with the state Global Warming Solutions Act. The climate action plan also includes a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, quantifiable actions to reduce emissions, and a program for implementation, ongoing monitoring, and updates;
- d. Conservation and Natural Resources Element: This element guides the long-term conservation of natural resources and preservation of available open space areas, and addresses the following conservation areas: open space resources; biological resources; local water resources; agricultural resources; mineral and energy resources; scenic resources; and historic, cultural, and paleontological resources;
- e. Parks and Recreation Element: This element guides the planning of an integrated parks and recreation system that meets the growing and diverse recreational needs of the communities served by the County;
- f. Noise Element: This element includes goals and policies to reduce and limit the exposure of excessive noise levels to the general public;
- g. Safety Element: This element includes goals and policies to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, and economic damage resulting from natural and man-made hazards;
- h. Public Services and Facilities Element: This element promotes the orderly and efficient planning of public facilities and infrastructure in conjunction with land use development and growth. This element focuses on the following services and facilities that are affected the most by growth and development: drinking water; sanitary sewers; solid waste; utilities; early care and education; and libraries; and
- i. Economic Development Element: This element outlines the County's economic development goals, and provides strategies to contribute to the economic well-being of the unincorporated County; and

WHEREAS, the Zone Changes, which rezone approximately 4,500 parcels, and the Zoning Update maintain consistency between the General Plan Update's land use

policy map and its zoning, which is required by State law, and implements elements of the General Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, the Zoning Update, among other things: (a) addresses development applications pending on the effective date of the General Plan Update; (b) amends commercial zone requirements and adds a major commercial zone to the Zoning Code; (c) amends multi-residential zone requirements; (d) amends industrial zone requirements; (e) amends mixed use development zone standards; (f) repeals the Part in the Zoning Code related to transit oriented districts and also repeals the arts and crafts zone; and (g) amends requirements for hillside management areas; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recommended approval of the General Plan Update at the close of its public hearing on December 10, 2014, to the County Board of Supervisors ("Board"); and

WHEREAS, the Board held a duly-noticed public hearing on March 24, 2015, to consider the General Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the California Government Code, the County considers no more than four amendments to a mandatory element of the General Plan each year, and considers the General Plan Update as the second amendment for 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds as follows:

1. The General Plan Update guides development and conservation within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County which is comprised of approximately 2,650 square miles, with a population of more than one million people.
2. The General Plan Update represents a comprehensive effort to update the 1980 General Plan and replaces that outdated plan.
3. The General Plan Update is necessary to revise demographic information, figures, maps, goals, and policies that reflect the County's vision for the unincorporated areas.
4. The General Plan Update is developed with an understanding of local and regional trends in population growth, best practices and policies, all with significant stakeholder input.
5. The General Plan Update is a long-range plan that reflects the unique characteristics and specific needs of the communities it covers, providing the policy framework for how and where the unincorporated areas will grow, and establishes goals, policies, and programs to foster healthy, livable, and sustainable communities.
6. The General Plan Update guides countywide growth through goals, policies, and programs that: discourage sprawling development patterns; protect areas with

hazardous, environmental, and resource constraints; encourage infill development in areas near transit services and existing infrastructure; and commit to ensuring sufficient services and infrastructure will be provided.

7. The General Plan Update serves as the framework for existing community-based plans, including area plans, community plans, neighborhood plans, local coastal land use plans, and any future updates to these plans. All community-based plans are components of the General Plan Update and must be consistent with the General Plan Update's goals and policies. The following is a list of adopted community-based plans within the County: Altadena Community Plan, Antelope Valley Area Plan, East Los Angeles Community Plan, Hacienda Heights Community Plan, Marina del Rey Local Coastal Land Use Plan, Santa Catalina Island Local Coastal Land Use Plan, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Land Use Plan, Santa Monica Mountains North Area Plan, Rowland Heights Community Plan, Twin Lakes Community Plan, Walnut Park Neighborhood Plan, and West Athens-Westmont Community Plan.
8. The General Plan Update removes the Diamond Bar Community Plan (1983) from its purview because the last remaining portion of unincorporated area covered by that community plan was annexed by the City of Diamond Bar on October 20, 2009, and the General Plan is no longer applicable to that area.
9. The General Plan Update divides the unincorporated areas into 11 planning areas to provide a framework for developing plans that respond to each planning areas' unique and diverse characteristics.
10. The Housing Element in the General Plan Update was updated and adopted by the Board in February 2013 pursuant to Government Code section 65588, and is included by reference as part of the General Plan Update. As required by State law, the State Department of Housing and Community Development certified the Housing Element in April 2014. The Board adopted the County's Bicycle Master Plan in March 2012 as part of the 1980 General Plan and that Bicycle Master Plan is included by reference into the Mobility Element of the General Plan Update.
11. Geographic Information Systems ("GIS") technology developed since the 1980 General Plan allows for the preparation of digitized maps and parcel-sized maps. As a result, the General Plan Update digitizes and portrays its land use policy maps on a parcel-sized basis for the following existing community-based plans: Altadena Community Plan, East Los Angeles Community Plan, Santa Catalina Island Local Coastal Plan, Walnut Park Neighborhood Plan, and West Athens-Westmont Community Plan. These changes are not substantive. The General Plan Update includes not only static maps, but GIS data that generate maps and figures in multiple, dynamic ways.
12. Appropriate environmental review for the General Plan Update was conducted pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), California Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq. It was determined that an environmental

impact report ("EIR") was required. A Draft EIR was prepared in compliance with CEQA and the County's environmental reporting procedures. A Notice of Completion and Availability of the Draft EIR was filed with the County Clerk and provided to the State Clearinghouse on June 19, 2014. The formal public review period of 45 days for the Draft EIR was from June 23, 2014 to August 7, 2014. In addition, on June 19, 2013, notice of the Draft EIR's availability was mailed to more than 350 stakeholders and organizations and sent via e-mail to more than 1,900 e-mail addresses. The Draft EIR was made available on Regional Planning's website with copies available at Regional Planning's main and satellite offices and all County public libraries. Notice of Availability was published in the Los Angeles Times on June 23, 2014. Twenty-three comment letters on the Draft EIR were received during the CEQA review period; those comments and the responses thereto were included in the Final EIR.

13. The Commission opened its public hearing on the Project on February 26, 2014. Regional Planning staff provided an overview of the General Plan Update and then focused on the land use and mobility elements of the General Plan Update. The public hearing continued over eight additional Commission meeting days, ending on December 10, 2014. Over the course of these hearing sessions, Regional Planning staff presented an overview of the various remaining elements of the General Plan Update, the zoning consistency program, the climate action plan, the update to the SEA program, and the update to the hillside management ordinance.
14. At the October 9, 2015, Commission hearing session, and at the request of Regional Planning staff, the Commission approved the removal of the SEA ordinance from the General Plan Update. However, boundary changes for SEAs outside of the Antelope Valley remained part of the Antelope Valley Plan and the General Plan Update still included goals and policies related to SEAs.
15. Over the course of the nine-session Commission hearing, testimony was provided by more than 50 individuals and representatives from agencies and stakeholder groups expressing support, opposition, and/or concerns regarding the General Plan Update. Based on this community input, Regional Planning staff incorporated revisions to the General Plan Update where appropriate.
16. At the December 10, 2014, Commission hearing session, the Commission considered the entire General Plan Update, the Final EIR prepared for the Project under CEQA, and directed Regional Planning staff to make the following amendments to the General Plan Update: (a) amend section IV of the Hillside Design Guidelines in the Appendix to Section 22.56.217, "Factors Affecting Residential Density," to specify that area, community, or neighborhood plans in conjunction with the General Plan establish the appropriate residential density range for a project; and (b) identify proposed expanded SEAs within the communities of Altadena, Hacienda Heights, and Rowland Heights as "Conceptual SEAs," adding language that these conceptual SEAs be further considered and only effective upon the preparation of community-based planning

efforts. Existing SEAs in the referenced communities will remain in place and not be affected by the designation of proposed expanded (conceptual) SEAs.

17. At the December 10, 2014, Commission hearing session, the Commission closed the public hearing and recommended that the Board certify the Final EIR, and adopt the proposed findings of fact and statement of overriding considerations prepared for the project under CEQA ("CEQA Findings of Fact and SOC"). The Commission also recommended that the Board approve the General Plan Update, including the amendments to the General Plan Update directed by the Commission.
18. In June 2015, the Board approved an update to the Antelope Valley Area Plan ("AV Plan Update"), a component of the General Plan Update. The AV Plan Update added agricultural resource areas, amended the County highway plan, amended SEA designations, and updated the regional trails map and mineral resource zones, all within the Antelope Valley area. The AV Plan Update also added the Rural Commercial Zone (C-RU) and the Rural Mixed Use Zone (MXD-RU) to the Zoning Code.
19. On March 24, 2015, the Board held a public hearing on the General Plan Update. The Director of Regional Planning and a supervising planner from Regional Planning outlined the General Plan Update and the related zoning consistency projects, and explained the history of the planning process for the General Plan Update, which began in 1999. After Regional Planning's presentation, 18 members of the public testified regarding the Project. Seven individuals testified in support of the General Plan Update and six individuals either opposed the General Plan Update or expressed concerns about some aspect of it. These concerns related to, among other things, the General Plan Update's elimination of a development monitoring system, the possible "taking" that could result from the Zone Changes, and the General Plan Update's alleged provision of unnecessary solutions to climate change.
20. The Board finds that it independently reviewed the information contained in the Final EIR prior to indicating its intent to approve the Project.
21. The Board finds that the Final EIR summarizes the potential environmental effects of the Project, the recommended mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid those effects, and the level of significance after mitigation. A mitigation monitoring and reporting program ("MMRP") consistent with the conclusions and recommendations in the Final EIR was prepared. Mitigation measures relate to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, public services, transportation and traffic, utilities and service systems, water supply planning, and water conservation.
22. The Board finds that the MMRP identifies the manner in which compliance with the measures adopted to mitigate or avoid potential adverse impacts to the environment is ensured. All of the measures identified in the MMRP will be implemented and enforced by the County with Regional Planning acting as the

lead in coordinating with other County departments and other public agencies that have responsibility for monitoring implementation of the mitigation measures.

23. The Board finds that impacts from implementation of the Project will be less than significant in the following areas: aesthetics, certain agricultural and forestry resources, biological resources with respect to adopted conservation plans, cultural resources related to human remains, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise with respect to airports, population and housing, public services related to law enforcement, schools and libraries, recreation, transportation and traffic concerning air traffic patterns, design feature hazards and emergency access, and utilities and services systems with respect to wastewater, solid waste and dry utility impacts. Potentially significant impacts that can be mitigated, avoided, or substantially reduced through implementation of mitigation measures related to air quality with respect to the placement of sensitive receptors near air contaminants or objectionable odors, biological resources regarding wetlands, archeological and paleontological cultural resources, and public services with respect to fire services.
24. The Board finds environmental impacts identified in the Final EIR as significant and unavoidable exist, even with implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR and MMRP. These significant and unavoidable impacts relate to the following: agriculture and forestry resources, biological resources, riparian habitat, sensitive communities and wildlife movement, cultural resources, mineral resources, noise, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems. These impacts will be reduced to the extent possible with the mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR and the MMRP.
25. The Board finds that with respect to the adverse environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated to less than a significant level, the substantial benefits resulting from the Project outweigh these unavoidable impacts and are acceptable based upon the overriding considerations set forth in the CEQA Findings of Fact and SOC. The CEQA Findings of Fact and SOC are incorporated herein by this reference, as if set forth in full.
26. The Board finds that at the conclusion of its public hearing, the Board certified that the Final EIR was completed in compliance with CEQA and the State and County guidelines related thereto and found that it reflected the independent judgment of the Board.
27. The Board finds that the MMRP is adequately designed to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures during implementation of the General Plan Update, Zone Changes, and Zoning Update pursuant to section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code. At the conclusion of its public hearing, the Board certified the Final EIR and adopted the MMRP for the Project, which was incorporated into the Final EIR.

28. The Board finds that for operational purposes, the General Plan, Zoning Update, and Zone Changes should take effect on the same day.

NOW, THEREFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Certifies that the Final EIR for the Project was completed in compliance with CEQA and the State and County CEQA Guidelines related thereto; certifies that it independently reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final EIR, and that the Final EIR reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the Board as to the environmental consequences of the Project; certifies that it certified the Final EIR at the conclusion of its hearing on the Project and adopted the CEQA Findings of Fact and SOC, and MMRP, finding that pursuant to section 21081.6 of the California Public Resources Code, the MMRP is adequately designed to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures, finding that the unavoidable significant effects of the Project have been reduced to an acceptable level and are outweighed by specific health and safety, economic, social, and/or environmental benefits of the Project as stated in the CEQA Findings of Fact and SOC; and
2. Approves Project No. 02-305 which, among other things, repeals the 1980 General Plan and adopts the attached General Plan Update for the unincorporated areas of the County, and orders that it take effect 30 days after this approval.

The foregoing resolution was on the 6TH day of OCTOBER, 2015, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies, and authorities for which said Board also acts.



PATRICK OGAWA, Acting Executive
Officer of the Board of Supervisors of
the County of Los Angeles

By 

APPROVED AS TO FORM.

MARY C. WICKHAM
Interim County Counsel

By 

Deputy

Attachments: County Community Climate Action Plan
Los Angeles Countywide General Plan Update